

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 10, 19 and 20 as shown below, and add new Claim 27 to 36.

The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Original) An image processing system, comprising:
 - image input means for inputting photographing images;
 - first arrangement means for arranging plural images of optional sizes input by said image input means within an output area of a definite size;
 - second arrangement means for deleting predetermined areas of the images to be arranged on the basis of an arrangement result obtained by said first arrangement means and arranges the images again within said output area; and
 - image arrangement means for determining an arrangement of said images within said output area and executing said arrangement on the basis of an arrangement result obtained by said first arrangement means and an arrangement result obtained by said second arrangement means.

2. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein said second arrangement means deletes a predetermined area of a runover image by a quantity determined on the basis of a width of the runover image when an image runs over said output area as a result of an image arrangement by said first arrangement means.

3. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein said second arrangement means deletes a predetermined area of a runover image by a quantity determined on the basis of a width of an arrangement area for the runover image when an image runs over said output area as a result of an arrangement by said first arrangement means.

4. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising area direction setting means for setting a direction of said output area,

wherein said first arrangement means comprises:

means for arranging said images in said output area in a first direction set by said area direction setting means; and

means for arranging said images in said output area in a second direction different from said first direction.

5. (Original) A system according to Claim 4, wherein said first arrangement means arranges a runover image in said second direction when an image runs over said output area as a result of arrangement of said images in said output area in said first direction.

6. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein said second arrangement means acquires a runover quantity when an image runs over said output area as a result of the arrangement by said first arrangement means, and

said image arrangement means determines an arrangement of said runover image in said output area on the basis of said runover quantity.

7. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising area direction setting means for setting a direction of said output area, wherein said first arrangement means comprises: means for arranging said images within said output area in a first direction set by said area direction setting means; and means for arranging said images within said output area in a second direction different from said first direction, wherein said second arrangement means comprises: means for acquiring a first runover quantity in an arrangement in said first direction when an image runs over said output area as a result of an arrangement by said first arrangement means; and means for acquiring a second runover quantity in an arrangement in said second direction, and said image arrangement means determines an arrangement of said runover image in said output area on the basis of said first runover quantity and said second runover quantity.

8. (Original) A system according to Claim 7, further comprising image adding means for consecutively adding images to be arranged, wherein said first arrangement means arranges said images once again excluding a finally added image when said first runover quantity or said second runover quantity exceeds a predetermined quantity.

9. (Original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein said image input means inputs photographed radiation images.

10. (Currently Amended) A control method of an image processing system for processing photographing images[[],] comprising **steps of**:

an image input step for inputting photographing images;

a first arranging step for arranging plural input images of optional sizes in an output area of a definite size;

a second arranging step for deleting predetermined areas of images to be arranged on the basis of an arrangement result at said first arranging step and arranging the images within said output area once again; and

an image arrangement step for determining an arrangement of said the images in said output area on the basis of an arrangement result at said first arranging step and an arrangement result at said second arranging step.

11. (Original) A control method according to Claim 10, wherein a predetermined area of a runover image is deleted by a quantity determined at said second arranging step on the basis of a width of the runover image when an image runs over said output area as a result of an arrangement at said first arranging step.

12. (Original) A control method according to Claim 10, wherein a predetermined area of a runover image is deleted by a quantity determined at said second

arranging step on the basis of a width of an arrangement area when an image runs over said output area as a result of an arrangement at said first arranging step.

13. (Original) A control method according to Claim 10, further comprising an area direction setting step of setting a direction of said output area,

wherein said images are arranged in said output area in a first direction set at said area direction setting step and in a second direction different from said first direction.

14. (Original) A control method according to Claim 13, wherein a runover image is arranged in said output area in said second direction at said first arranging step when an image runs over said output area as a result of arranging said images in said output area in said first direction.

15. (Original) A control method according to Claim 10, wherein a runover quantity is acquired at said second arranging step when an image runs over said output area as a result of an arrangement at said first arranging step, and

an arrangement of said runover image in said output area is determined at said executing step on the basis of said runover quantity.

16. (Original) A control method according to Claim 10, further comprising an area direction setting step of setting a direction of said output area,

wherein said images are arranged in said output area at said first arranging step in a first direction set at said area direction setting step and said images are further arranged in said output area in a second direction different from said first direction,

a first runover quantity in a disposition in said first direction and a second runover quantity in said second direction are acquired at said second arranging step when an image runs over said output area as a result of an arrangement at said first arranging step, and

an arrangement of said runover image in said output area is determined at said executing step on the basis of said first runover quantity and said second runover quantity.

17. (Original) A control method according to Claim 16, further comprising an image addition step of consecutively adding images to be processed,

wherein said images are arranged once again with a finally added image excluded at said first arranging step when either of said first runover quantity or said second runover quantity exceeds a predetermined quantity.

18. (Original) A control method according to Claim 10, wherein photographed radiation images are input at said image input step.

19. (Currently Amended) A memory medium storing a program readable by a computer for allowing an image processing system for processing photographing images to execute the following steps,

wherein said program comprises:

an image input step for inputting photographing images;

a first arranging step for arranging plural input images of optional sizes in an output area of a definite size;

a second arranging step for deleting predetermined area areas of the images to be arranged on the basis of an arrangement result at said first arranging step and arranging said the images in within said output area once again; and

an image arrangement step for determining an arrangement of said the images in said output area on the basis of an arrangement result at said first arranging step and an arrangement result at said second arranging step, and executing said arrangement.

20. (Original) An image arranging method for consecutively arranging plural images of optional sizes from a left upside to a right downside in an output area of a definite size so that the images are arranged in bands in a line or row direction in said output area, comprising:

a first arranging step of arranging said plural images in said output area;

a second arranging step of arranging said plural images once again in said output area so that marginal portions of some or all of said plural images are deleted by narrowing widths of said bands at ratios proportional to widths of said bands when said plural images can not be arranged in said output area in a vertical direction and narrowing widths of images existing in a band wherein an image which can not be arranged in a horizontal direction of said output area exists at ratios proportional to the widths of the images when said plural images can not be arranged in said output area in a horizontal direction[[],]; and

an image arranging step of determining an arrangement of said plural images on the basis of arrangement results at said first arranging step and said second arranging step.

21. (Original) An image arranging method according to Claim 20, further comprising an area direction setting step of setting direction information of said output area, wherein said first arranging step comprises a step of performing an arrangement of said images once again in a second direction different from a first direction set at said area direction setting step when a given image runs over said output area in an arrangement in said first direction, and

wherein said second arranging step comprises a step of arranging said plural images once again when a given image runs over said output area in an arrangement at said first arranging step.

22. (Original) An image arranging method according to Claim 20, wherein said first arranging step comprises:

a step of arranging the images in a first direction set at said area direction setting step; and

a step of arranging the images in a second direction different from said first direction,

wherein said second arranging step comprises a step of acquiring a first runover quantity which is produced when said plural images can not be arranged in said output area in

said first direction and a step of acquiring a second runover quantity when said plural images can not be arranged in said output area in said second direction, and

wherein said image arranging step comprises a step of determining an image arrangement in a direction corresponding to a runover quantity whichever is smaller.

23. (Original) An image arranging method according to Claim 22, further comprising a step of consecutively adding images to be processed,

wherein said image arranging step comprises a step of excluding an image finally added at said image adding step when the first runover quantity or said second runover quantity whichever is smaller exceeds a definite ratio of said output area for the first time.

24. (Original) An image arranging method according to Claim 20, further comprising a step of reducing said plural images to an image.

25. (Original) An image arranging method according to Claim 20, further comprising a step of arranging said bands uniformly in said output area.

26. (Original) An image arranging method according to Claim 20, further comprising a step of arranging said images uniformly in said bands.

27. (New) An image processing method comprising:
an image input step of inputting photographing images;

a judgment step of judging whether or not the plural images input in said image input step exceed an output area of a certain size;

a deletion step of, in a case where it is judged in said judgment step that the plural images exceed the output area, deleting a predetermined area from the respective images; and
an image arrangement step of arranging within the output area the images from which the predetermined area has been deleted in said deletion step.

28. (New) A method according to Claim 27, wherein the judgment in said judgment step is performed by comparing a sum of width lengths of the plural images and a width length of the output area.

29. (New) A method according to Claim 27, wherein the predetermined area is set based on an excess amount and image widths.

30. (New) A method according to Claim 29, wherein it is judged in said judgment step whether the excess amount exceeds a predetermined value.

31. (New) A method according to Claim 30, further comprising an image change step of, in a case where it is judged in said judgment step that the excess amount exceeds the predetermined value, changing the number of images.

32. (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

image input means for inputting photographing images;
judgment means for judging whether or not the plural images input by said image
input means exceed an output area of a certain size;
deletion means for, in a case where it is judged by said judgment means that the
plural images exceed the output area, deleting a predetermined area by a deletion amount based
on image width lengths exceeding the respective images; and
image arrangement means for arranging within the output area the images from
which the predetermined area has been deleted by said deletion means.

33. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 32, wherein the judgement by
said judgement means is performed by comparing a sum of width lengths of the plural images
and a width length of the output area.

34. (New) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the predetermined
area is set based on an excess amount and image widths.

35. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 34, wherein it is judged by said
judgment means whether the excess amount exceeds a predetermined value.

36. (New) An apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising image
change means for, in a case where it is judged by said judgment means that the excess amount
exceeds the predetermined value, changing the number of images.